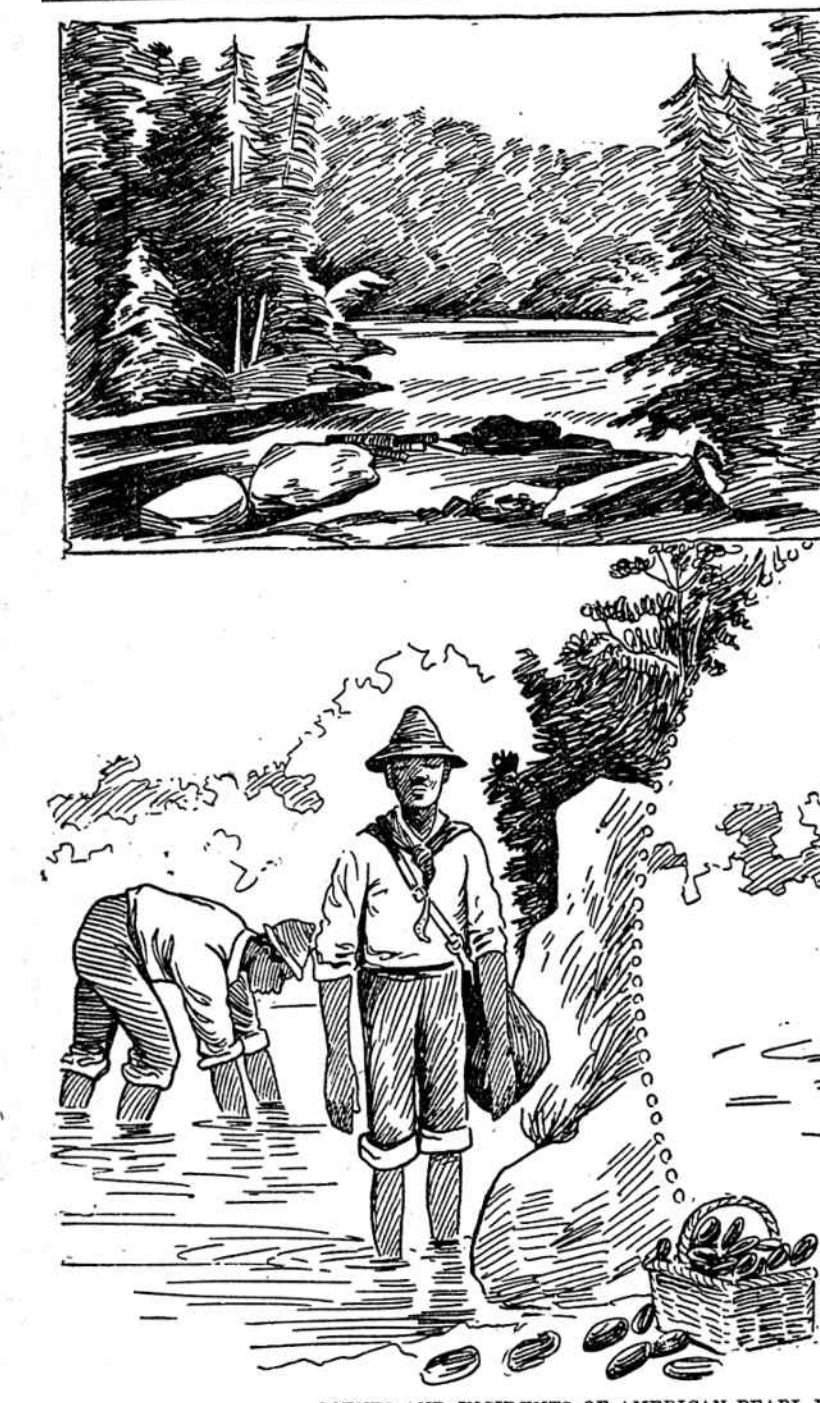


# AMERICAN PEARLS FOUND IN PLENTY.

The pearl boom is the latest successor of Klondike and its attendant excitements. For several weeks the people of Arkansas have been worked up over the discovery of pearls in some of the lakes and rivers of that State, and in some places half the population have been industriously digging mussels in the hope of sudden wealth, while the rest of the country has been agitating itself on the subject of dollar wheat. A New York diamond broker recently exhibited a very large pearl which had been sent to him from the Arkansas field, just what part of it he refused to say.

The stone is one of the finest specimens of the "sweetwater" variety ever seen in New York. It is perfectly formed, slightly oval in shape, of a pure white, and weighs thirty-five grains. It is valued at \$800. Another broker recently received a consignment of Arkansas pearls, which included a pink pearl, weighing twenty-six grains. It is worth not more than \$100, however, on account of a slight



SCENES AND INCIDENTS OF AMERICAN PEARL FISHERIES.

blemish on one side. Many smaller pearls have come from this same region during the past week, and there is talk of a New York company to work some of the Arkansas pearl lakes. It is possible, however, that they will be late in the field, as a Memphis company has already leased one of the most promising lakes for a term of five years for \$4500, and individual speculators have obtained control of several others.

The Klondike excitement is not to be compared with the enthusiasm in Northern Arkansas over the recent finds of pearls. At Helena and Little Rock family parties are going out to camp along the river and hunt for pearls. Most of these parties have found only small stones, but one woman picked up a pink pearl worth \$50, and two small boys who were looking for clams and not for pearls found two stones which they sold for \$25 apiece. Most of the valuable finds, however, have been made in the lakes and ponds, which are controlled by private individuals or by companies. In some places the owners have had to stand guard with shotguns to keep off the enthusiastic pearl seekers, who have been accustomed to hunt clams wherever they wished, and who think that the mere fact that the shells may contain gems worth \$100 or so ought not to make any difference in this right.

The Arkansas pearl fisheries are recommended as a good substitute for Alaska for those who are in search of hardship and adventure. There is not so much frost and snow, but there is plenty of malaria, which is apt to carry off the unacclimated visitor, and the swamps and forests which one has to traverse in order to reach the lakes where the treasures lie will supply the adventurer with as many unpleasant experiences as Chilcot Pass. Besides the malaria that hangs round the lakes and swamps, they contain sulphur and iron, which give the water a decidedly unpleasant yellowish tinge. The places in which pearls have thus far been discovered are Murphy and Walker Lakes, Cross Lake, Sulphur and Four-Mile Ponds and the creeks flowing into them. These are all in the Bald Knob country southwest of Memphis.

Several Memphis citizens have invested money in leases in White County, and the concern already referred to will make an organized effort to develop the industry in the lakes and ponds which it controls. This company has already taken over several hundred dollars' worth of pearls, but so far the work has all been done by colored diggers and divers, who are paid \$2 per day for their services. On account of the color of the water they have to feel for the clams, with their hands or bare feet, and so can work effectively only in shallow places. As soon as

record for one pull, having drawn 11,061 pounds of stone, loaded on a dray, on a level, just eight feet in one draw. They are models of symmetry in build, are extremely kind and docile and beautifully colored. The best of care is devoted to them, one man spending several hours every day in grooming and cleaning them. They have been on exhibition at all of the principal agricultural fairs in the country.

In speaking of his handsome yoke of oxen Mr. Avery said: "The oxen have not by any means reached their limit; they have gained in weight some seven hundred pounds the past year and are capable of carrying another thousand pounds. Unlike other large cattle, their flesh is distributed very evenly, which adds very much to their looks, and they stand on their limbs as straight as a pair of calves. They are remarkably intelligent and well trained, as you can judge from the position which they take in the photograph. They are very active and can easily walk a mile in thirty minutes. They are colored, like all pure Holsteins, black and white. These coats are as fine and glossy as a thoroughbred racer's. They are still working moderately when at home. Their yoke was made to order, and probably is the largest yoke ever worn by any team. It is seven feet in length and weighs 200 pounds. Their crowning glory is their magnificent set of highly polished horns.



THE WORLD'S LARGEST OXEN.

For size, quality, mating, and beauty combined their equal does not exist in the world. It may be of interest to know that their food consists of eight to twelve quarts of corn and about ground together, two quarts of flax meal, and from six to eight quarts of bran each day, with an occasional change to suit their appetites.

**WORLD'S LARGEST OXEN.**  
Weigh 7300 Pounds—Yokes Seven Feet Long—Have Hauled 11,061 Pounds.



THE WORLD'S LARGEST OXEN.

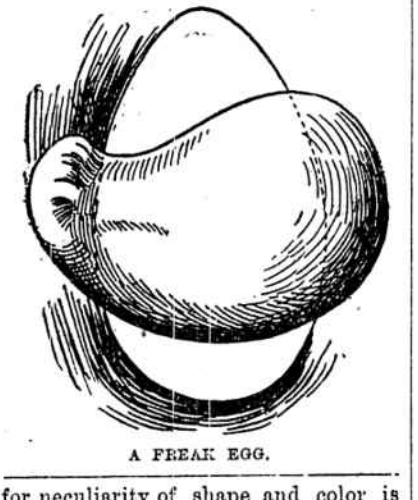


BARON NORDENSKIÖLD.

ing, the baron has won for himself a great name in science. His family had long been eminent in scientific pursuits, and he began his studies with his father, Nils Gustaf, who was the chief of the Finland mining department. He entered the University of Helsinki in 1849, and spent his vacation in the study of mineralogy. Of that science he soon became an eminent exponent. He was forced from his native country of Finland by the Russian Government, and chose Sweden to live in. He traveled to Stockholm and was appointed director of the mineralogical department. In 1868 he made his first great polar voyage and attained a latitude of eighty-one degrees and forty-two minutes. In 1872 he decided to make another trip to the north, and it was on this voyage that he made the first attempt to penetrate the inland ice in the interior. His researches on this voyage were of vast importance to science. Nordenskiöld now turned his attention to Siberian exploration and accomplished much in that direction. Backed by the Swedish King, the doctor made an effort for the discovery of the northeast passage in 1878. His vessel was the Vega, and she reached Japan one year after sailing. On his return he was made a baron and appointed a commander of the Order of the North Star. Baron Nordenskiöld has written voluminously on scientific subjects.

**Production of Peanut Oil.**  
The production of peanut oil in this country has hitherto been carried on in a desultory way, and it has not been much known as a commercial article. However, as the chemical composition of the peanut has become better known, attention has been called to the food value of the peanut meal and the peanut grits. It has been found that they are richer in nitrogenous principles than any of the vegetable seed cakes, and a demand has sprung up for them. So the expression of the oil has now been undertaken on a larger scale and with more suitably designed presses. The cold-pressed oil is of a pale yellow color, and of pleasant flavor and odor. A very slight refining produces a very agreeable table oil for salads and general culinary purposes. When once freed from the free acid found in the raw state, it does not tend to become rancid as readily as olive oil.

**Queerest of All Eggs.**  
In an attempt to eclipse the efforts of others of her kind an Okawville (Ill.) hen has produced an egg which



A FREAK EGG.

for peculiarity of shape and color is not equalled in the annals of the barnyard. Grocer Charles F. Meyersick, of St. Louis, owns this remarkable egg, and if it were a nugget from the Klondike he could not value the strange freak more than he does. In appearance the egg looks like a mock orange or a gourd. It weighs about half a pound.

**Money in Mules.**  
"The Kentucky breeder of mules is rather elated at present over the prices of this class of live stock," said Mr. W. H. Britton of the Blue Grass State. "There has been an increase in the value of mules of more than twenty-five per cent. over last year, and there is considerable speculation among them, owing to the active demand. Mules that are sold last year from \$10 to \$50 are now bringing from \$20 to \$70. They are being shipped to Memphis to be used in improving the levees of the Mississippi; to Pennsylvania and West Virginia for service in the coal mines, and even as far as the island of Jamaica for work on the fruit plantations."—Washington Post.

**Cheap Living.**  
Paraguay, in South America, is a cheap place to live in. A house servant there costs only \$2.45 a month; and ordinary ones not so well trained only \$1.64 a month. A cook can be hired for about \$1 a week for a good one, though a fair one can be hired for \$3.20 a month.

**Water That Petrifies.**  
Extraordinary qualities are possessed by the River Tinto, in Spain. It hardens and petrifies the sand of its bed, and if a stone falls in the stream and alights upon another, in a few months they unite and become one stone. Fish cannot live in its waters.

## TOLD OF BUCK KILGORE.

There are men in every quarter of the Union who will regret to hear of the death of Judge Constantine B. Kilgore, at Ardmore, I. T. For eight years "Buck" Kilgore was a notable man in Washington. In person he was the typical Texan. Above six feet tall, above sixteen stone in weight, above the average Congressman in ability, above the average man in sincerity, straight as an Indian, and strong as an ox, "Buck" Kilgore was a marked man wherever he appeared. It was the kicking down of the door leading from the legislative chamber to the House lobby that gave him notoriety. It was characteristic of the man. He wanted to go into the lobby; the messenger shut the door in his face. He raised his foot, clothed in an enormous cowhide boot, and kicked the door down and went his way. The notoriety that attached to him on account of the act was always distasteful to him.

Except Dick Bland and Amos Cummings there was no more democratic-looking man in Congress. The boys on the avenue called him "Buck," and after he kicked the door down every gamin in Washington was ambitious to shine his boots. Many of them boasted of the honor who drew on their imaginations, as George the IV. did when he claimed to have borne a conspicuous part in the battle of Waterloo. Kilgore did not have his boots shined every day. When he first landed he took rooms on O street, not far from the Capitol. After breakfast he went out for a stroll. A colored boy proposed to shine. "What's your name?" asked "Buck." "George Washington," replied the boy. "It's an honor I did not expect," rejoined Kilgore; "you can pitch right in." During the whole session "Buck" would walk half a dozen squares to give that boy the job of shining his boots.

During the war he was ordered some to assist in gathering up some deserters. One evening about dusk he was out in the country in quest of a deserter who had been off the "lay-out" for a year. He was very hungry and very weary. He called at a house by the roadside and there he found a woman just taking from the spit a nicely broiled chicken. The savor of the fowl made him ravenous. He had a Mexican dollar in his pocket which he had carried for years and to which he had become much attached, but he was bound to have that chicken, and he pulled out the dollar and proposed a trade—the coin for the fowl. The lady said the chicken was for a sick friend and that she could not sell it. "But," she continued, "I'll jump you for it."

"What do you mean?" said "Buck." "I mean that we will see which can jump furthest from this doorkill out into the yard, and the one of us that beats shall have both chicken and dollar." "All right; that suits me exactly," said "Buck." The dollar was placed on the dish beside the chicken and his gun was leaned against the wall by the door, and "Buck" slung his arms and made a tremendous leap over twelve feet. He recovered with difficulty, and when he turned to the door there was the lady with his cocked gun in her hands, with the butt against her shoulder and finger on the trigger.

"Now, you just flit the gravel down that road, young man, or I'll make a buzzard's food of you," she ordered. There was shot in her eyes and "Buck" and ball" in the gun. So "Buck" flitted the gravel, his bosom swollen with impotent rage. By this time it was dark. Over in a field "Buck" spied a ginhouse. He went to it and climbed into the loft, laid down on the floor and soon was fast asleep. After a time he was awakened by voices down below. He listened and made the discovery that one was a female voice, and a moment later he realized that she was relating the "jumping" episode to her companion, who gave vent to a peal of laughter. There were the chicken and his dollar which he could see by the light of the tallow dip. Peering about he saw his gun also. There was a big hole in the floor of the loft, and just as the man took hold of the dish to eat the chicken "Buck" plunged through that hole and seized his gun. Before they recovered from their astonishment "Buck" roared out: "Madam, you just flit the gravel back home, and as for this gentleman here and I will flit the gravel to the office of the Provost Marshal. He is the deserter I have been after for a week."

There was shot in "Buck's" eye. The woman left, "Buck" recovered his dollar, ate the chicken, and before midnight surrendered his prisoner to the Provost Marshal. It was worth a journey across the continent to hear "Buck" tell the story.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**The Biggest Passenger-Ship.**  
The biggest passenger-ship in existence is the new North German Lloyd liner Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, a marine monster, an eighth of a mile long (643 feet, to be accurate), sixty-six feet wide, forty-three feet deep, and of a tonnage of 14,000. All her details and dimensions are Broddingnagian. She can carry 1520 passengers, besides her crew of 450. Her engines are expected to develop 28,000 horse-power, and her cost is estimated to have been about two million dollars. She is so much bigger than the other big liners, and has so many novelties of construction, and such great expectations of speed and comfort and safety, that her first trip across the ocean is an event.—Harper's Weekly.

**Professional Scarecrows.**  
A great many people may fill the role of scarecrow unintentionally, but to adopt it as a profession is quite another matter. While the Anglo-Egyptian expedition is making its way up the Nile and doing battle with Mahdist hordes, the troops as they go up from Cairo to join the men at the front, see long stretches of grain fields, and, dotting the fields and raised above them, are tall, muscular forms, almost naked. These are the stone-throwers, who guard the fields from the ravages of the birds, and were it not for them the crops would be entirely ruined.

## GOD'S MESSAGE TO MAN.

**PREGNANT THOUGHTS FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST PROPHETS.**  
God's Tomorrow—A Prayer for Self-Restraint—Culture of Faith and Prayer—Wherefore Dost Thou Doubt?—Lord, Draw Thou Near!—Always Restoring.

On the level stretches of dusty road; Plodding along 'neath the weary load Of every-day cares and doubts and fears, 'Tis hard to be brave; yet the mist of tears, By a resolute will kept bravely back, Though blotting and blurring the onward track, Pierced by the sunbeams of hope, may follow.

The beautiful colors of God's tomorrow. Be patient, dear, when the hands grow weak, And the words of cheer that the lips would speak. Falter and die in a voiceless prayer: For a blossom is folded in every care. And hidden deep in each doubt of thine, A drop of truth doth glimmer and shine, Waiting the light that shall surely follow The flush of the dawn of God's tomorrow.

Today may be long and hard to bear, But God will answer thy yearning prayer. Each feeble struggle toward nobler life, Now choked by the weeds of passion and strife. Each helpful impulse, each lofty thought, To a glad fruition shall be brought, When the angels, whom thou hast called Pain and Sorrow, Shall gently raise thee in God's tomorrow.—Mabelle P. Clapp, in Christian Register.

**A Prayer for Self-Restraint.**  
God of all patience, by whose long-suffering love alone we are permitted to continue in the opportunities of life, keep us from the sin of hasty word or deed. Be swift than our provocations, kinder than our own thoughts of revenge. Enable us to wait the ripening of thy purpose. So teach us to weigh the hopes and fears, the joys and disappointments of this mortal life that we may know the worth of the enduring treasure of thy grace. Guard us from the folly of heart rest in earthly things. Enlarge our souls in the good hope of eternal life through Christ, and make us willing instruments of service. Enable us to think in charity, to speak in kindness, to deal lovingly and justly in all relations and responsibilities of life. And glorify thyself in us through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

**The Culture of Faith and Prayer.**  
Spiritual imagination can be cultivated as poetic imagination can be cultivated. The culture of the imagination is the culture of the ideal. It is the culture of faith and the culture of prayer. If we imagine the love of God, if we pray for the mind of the Master, if in every difficulty we stop to think what He would have done and said, if we keep ever the vision of Christ before us, if we make His teaching and will and life the test and example, we will live the imaginative life, not always down among the dust and sordidness of the world, but sometimes among the angels and the spirits of just men made perfect, and the dear Lord who has taken captive our heart and imagination. It purifies passion and cleanses the heart to go with Him thus in fancy through His earthly life, and to realize that He is the same today in nature and in purpose.—Hugh Black.

**Wherefore Dost Thou Doubt?**  
I stood amazed and whispered, Can it be That he hath granted all the boon I sought? How wonderful that he for me hath wrought! How wonderful that he hath answered me! O faithless heart! He said that he would hear And answer thy poor prayer, and he hath heard And proved his promise. Wherefore didst thou fear? Why marvel that thy Lord hath kept his word? More wonderful if he should fail to bless Expectant faith and prayer with good success.

**"Lord, Draw Thou Near!"**  
O Lord, show thyself to the broken in spirit. Draw near unto such as are weary and faint and sad of heart because all life is to them a going up hill, and if there be change it is only into the wilderness and the rocks, to places where they may encounter great fear and sustain great loss. Let there come into our souls an image of joy, a divine Presence, that we may see the uplifting of a new life and hear the incoming of a new and blessed music. And so wilt thou pour into a pure heart what of heaven it may hold. May we have in constant remembrance thy benediction and thy promise, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Amen.

**God Always Restoring.**  
We make mistakes, or what we call such. The nature that God put into each of us makes exactly needs, and in the goodness of the dear God is given, and the living of it out. Add in the pure and patient living of it out we come to find that we have fallen, not into a hopeless confusion of our own will, ignorant making, but that the finger of God has been at work among our lines, and that the emerging is into His blessed order; that He is forever making up for us our own wrongs that He makes them up beforehand, that He evermore restoreth our souls.—A. D. T. Whitney.

**A Hymn of Praise.**  
From past regrets and present faithlessness, From the deep shadow of foreseen distress, And from the nameless weariness that grows As life's long day seems weary to its close.

Thou life within my life, than self more near! Thou veiled Presence infinitely clear! From all illusive shows of sense I flee, To find my centre and my rest in Thee.

How shall I call Thee who art always here, How shall I praise Thee who art still most dear.

What may I give Thee save what Thou hast And whom but Thee have I in earth or heaven?—Eliza Scudder.

**Blurred by Self-Consciousness.**  
In looking at the stars through a great telescope, it is necessary first to put out every light until you are left in total darkness. Every light sets the air in motion, and disturbs the focus, and blurs the vision of the stars. How often our vision of God is blurred and dimmed by the flames of self-consciousness and sordidness that float around us! How many times we have to put out the light of self-seeking, earthly ambition and false pride, in order to see the perfect God very clear before the eyes of the soul, and the light within burning bright.—Rufus Ellis.

**Sold Horse Meat in Philadelphia.**  
A Philadelphia butcher has been arrested for selling horse meat.

## THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

**INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 31.**  
Lesson Text: "Paul's Voyage and Shipwreck." Acts xxvii., 13-26—Golden Text: Acts xxvii., 25—Commentary on the Day's Lesson by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

13. "And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing the boards, they committed the vessel to the winds." Paul, with Aristarchus, a former fellow traveler, and afterward a fellow prisoner (Acts xix., 29; Col. iv., 10), is now at sea on his way to Rome. They touched at Sidon and thence near Cyprus to Myra on the mainland of Lycia, in Asia Minor. There he was transferred to a ship of Alexandria bound for Italy, and after many days of slow sailing rounded the east end of Crete and reached the Fair Havens, on the south coast of Crete. Here they spent much time, until Paul advised them not to venture further on account of the season, but the master and owner and the majority advised to try and reach the port of Phenice, a little farther west in Crete, where they were to land. They started, keeping as near the land as possible. Paul is in the hands, humbly speaking, of those who know not God, but is really in the hands of God and can trust Him.

14, 15. A mighty wind from the land arose, against which the ship could not bear up, and they were compelled to let her run before the wind, and so they were driven out to sea. We know that Satan is the prince of the power of the air, and that he caused the wind that blew down the house upon Job's children and killed them (Job i., 19). Satan is the prince of the power of the air, and that he caused the wind that blew down the house upon Job's children and killed them (Job i., 19). Satan is the prince of the power of the air, and that he caused the wind that blew down the house upon Job's children and killed them (Job i., 19).

16, 17. The storm increased. Under the lee of the island of Claudia they got the small boat on board which had evidently been towing astern. They somehow ungirded the ship, then lower the sail and let her drive under bare poles. What about the condition of the passengers among the 276 souls on board? (verse 27.) Sailors are not supposed to feel anything, never to know they are sick till they are dead, but many ordinary people do get awfully sick in a storm. This must have been a sad ship. And yet there were some on it very dear to the Lord Jesus.

18, 19. "Exceedingly tossed with a tempest." Well, there is no use to say a word about this unless you have been in such circumstances yourself. It was a bad case, and many doubtless wished that there was no more sea (Rev. xxi., 1). Yet even under such circumstances the Prince of Peace can control one's heart. In health or sickness, life or death, we can be quiet in His loving care.

20. "All hope that we should be saved was then taken away." Surely they were at their wit's end (Ps. ciii., 27), or, as in the margin, "All their wisdom was swallowed up." The case was, as far as human eyes could see, utterly hopeless. It makes one think of the sinner having no hope and without God in the world (Eph. ii., 12), or, as in Rom. v., 6, "without strength." But there is a Saviour for the lost, and only for such. He said, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

21. "But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them." They had fasted for fourteen days (verse 33), and must have felt forlorn indeed and ready for a word of comfort from any one who might have it for them. None but God could help or comfort them, and His servant is ready to be the messenger. He is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort (II Cor. i., 3), but we cannot fully appreciate it or Him till we get into straits places.

22. "And now I exhort you to be of good cheer, for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship." He emphasized it by pointing out, "There shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you," and he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all and began to eat (verse 34).

23. "For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve." This and the next two verses are to me the very heart of this lesson. Take the words, "God, whose I am," and think of what is included. His property, which He will certainly care for, His child, whom He will certainly see to, loved by the Lord Jesus as the Father loves Him (John xv., 9), bought with the blood of Christ, and therefore as precious to God as that blood is; a part of Christ Himself, a member of His body. We need not hesitate to say, "The most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, owns me," and take all the comfort there is for us. Then consider "whom I serve," and remember that we cannot serve God and Mammon; neither can we serve Christ and please men (Matt. vi., 24; Gal. i., 10).

24. "Saying, Fear not, Paul: Thou must be brought before Caesar, and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee." This is a confirmation of the Lord's testimony to him in Jerusalem—"Thou must bear witness at Rome" (chapter xxiii., 11).

25. "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer, for I believe God, that it shall be even as it is told me." "Fear not," says the Lord to us. "Whatever God says is as sure as if it had already come to pass, so we should say continually, 'I believe God.' The first 'believe' in the Bible is in Gen. xiv., 22. It is the first word in the Bible. It comes to us to be ever saying, 'Even so, Father, or as Mary said, 'Be it unto me according to Thy word.'"

26. "Forasmuch as I have been cast upon a certain island?" There must have been a good reason for that also or it would not have been so. It is written in Ezek. xiv., 23, "Thou shalt know that I have not done in vain the things which I have done in thee, saith the Lord God." Everything in the life of a child of God is beforehand arranged for God's glory and his highest good. Let us not be so slow to intrude the tones of our own pride but be content with His plan.—Lesson Helper.

## WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

**Messages Transmitted From Forts to Ships Anchored Twelve Miles Away.**  
The Navy Department has received an interesting report which tells of successful experiments in wireless telegraphy, by which communication was maintained between forts on the coast of Italy and a fleet of vessels anchored in the harbor a good distance away. The invention has been perfected by an Italian of the name of Marconi.

A vertical copper wire, well covered with gutta percha, was attached to a steel ninety feet high. One end was attached to a receiver on board ship and the other end was free. On shore a mast of the same height was erected, and to its vertical wire a transmitter was attached. Another mast being placed well down in the ship, and at least eight feet under water.

At Dover, England, further experiments are being conducted which are expected to add to the information upon the subject already gained. The leading British naval experts are satisfied now of the practicality and value of the invention, and if the tests are satisfactory, Austria will soon begin trials with the invention, and Germany is now conducting some at Kiel. So far the American experts have given little attention to it, but the trials abroad will direct that a test be given here.